



Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee (ELAC) Final Meeting Minutes: July 12, 2007

Editorial Note: Information communicated in these minutes is not to be used as official New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection policy or as an official Department notification. Contact NJDEP officials directly for official information regarding matters communicated in these minutes.

Administrative Business

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. The June minutes will be approved/corrected via e-mail.

Subcommittee Reports

Laboratory Certification Program: Joe Aiello (NJDEP/OQA) is doing the final review now.

Method Update Rule: Labs can update to the new methods now. OQA will work on communicating (with permittees concerning the changes in the methods) via the DMR letters and via e-mail with labs). Information will be posted on the website. It was questioned how this would affect laboratory certification. The ACPL should address the new certifications.

Certification Streamlining: Sharon O'Toole (MAEL) reported a list of minimum items required for certification has been submitted to Joe Aiello (NJDEP/OQA) for review by all the auditors then posting on the website.

PT Program: Pete Boughton (NJDEP/OQA) reported Rachel Ellis (NJDEP/OQA) has made up the schedule and letter for contacts during her absence, with a longer feedback period. Michele Potter will be the Team Leader for the PT program during Rachel's absence. Tom Chepiga (NJDEP/OQA) will be handling the VHS scoring and Pete will help out wherever.

Deb Waller (NJDEP/OQA) reported Rachel Ellis will be starting maternity leave on August 9th. After that date, contact Michele Potter (NJDEP/OQA) concerning PTs. If there are any questions or problems with the DMR PTs, contact Towanda Joseph at the EPA. The Drinking Water PT make-up round shipped Monday. The S/HW PT invoices, for the October round, have been mailed, payment is due August 20th with no exceptions. Rachel will be getting tougher concerning deadlines. Can use a purchase order with the invoice to meet the deadline. If any lab was invoiced for sludge metals but subcontracts that work out, do not forward the PT samples.

Deb explained how to calculate the Total Solids (Standard Methods 2540 G) for the WP PT round – take the % solids and multiply by 10,000. They will pull 2540 G from WP and place it in S/HW (09 category) in the future, but probably not before the next study. This would mean a new fee unless already certified in that category.

TPH: It was confirmed the deadline for TPH by 418.1 was the sampling date, not the extraction date.

TNI: It was reported the August meeting would be in Cambridge, Mass. Tom Cady (HC/V) requested a summary for ELAC from anyone attending.

Bioassay: No report.

NJQLs: It was stated this is a “hot item” due to the NJSCC. The NJQLs will affect NFA and can reopen a site. All VOA (NJQLs) will change due to the removal of the methanol method. The status of the legal review was questioned.

Sludge (Biosolids): Anthony Pilawski (NJDEP/BPR) reported they are still working on the manual. The next round of comments be sent out to the sub committee next week.

Communications and (OQA) Website: Sharon O'Toole (MAEL) reported the minutes have been sent to Tom Chepiga (NJDEP/OQA) for posting.

Old Business

Bureau of Safe Drinking Water: Linda Bonnette (NJDEP/BSDW) reminded labs to start applying for an E. coli method as L2T needs E. coli for enumeration, it is no longer presence/absence.

Karen Fell (NJDEP/BSDW) reported the lab monitoring schedule for public water systems is now on the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water's website. Letters have been sent out to systems and laboratories notifying them of the website availability. Sample points are identified by number, not name, for security. They will try to update the site monthly. If there is a discrepancy between the letters and the website concerning the schedule, the water system should call, or have the lab call on their behalf. Karen also briefly mentioned the new Ground Water Rule and the fact that the State has to select a “fecal indicator” to be used. Deb Waller (NJDEP/OQA) stated E. coli was the most likely indicator, nothing has been suggested otherwise.

PWTA: Karen Fell (NJDEP/BSDW) reported almost everyone is in for reporting. The e-mail bounce back is not working for rejection of data; must go in to see if data is accepted. Only a handful of labs are not reporting, they are being sent to enforcement.

Site Remediation: Greg Toffoli (NJDEP/SRP) was on vacation.

Tom Cady (HC/V) reported the NJSCC comment period was extended and but ends July 27th. Pesticides, PAHs, arsenic and no more methanol (for VOA) are areas of concern. If there are any comments from the ELAC community, please pass them along to Mark Feitelson (PAS) at precisionlabs@comcast.net.

New Business

Lab Certification Fee Proposal: No report.

Annual Meetings: No report (on hold for six months)

There were no other new issues. The meeting was adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for 09:30 AM on September 13, 2007 – 5th Floor Conference Room. ELAC will be taking its summer break during August.

Note: All visitors must show one form of identification with a photo, or two non-photo IDs, when signing in at a DEP building. This will be performed at all DEP main lobbies in the Trenton complex (401, 501, 440 and 428). All visitors should be prepared to verify their identification.